the original target formation was at 6000 mtrs. depth and the target formation has later been revised to lower depth; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The target depth of well Ichapur-1 has been revised to 5600 m. based on the drilling results and its integration with seismic and other geo-scientific data.

Drilling in West Bengal

1883. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) furnish a chart showing the rate of oil drilling at different depths in the same location and at different locations in West Bengal; and

(b) the reasons for the slow rate of drilling, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The rate of penetration while drilling depends on the depth of drilling, size of hole, type of formation, hardness and drillability of the rock and hence drilling rate would vary at different locations and depths. Since 1988-89 the drilling rate in various wells drilled by ONGC in West Bengal has varied from 1.85 to 8.14 metres per hour.

Setting up of Mini Refinery at Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh

1884. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the current rate of royalty per ton on crude oil explored from Kharsang oilfield of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not made any proposal to establish a mini refinery at Kharsang in spite of several demands made by the local people of Kharsang area; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) For the period 1-4-1990 to 31-3-93 the rate of Royalty has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 481/- per metric tonne.

(b) and (c) The production from the Kharsang field is too small to make a mini-refinery viable and there is adequate refining capacity available to process this crude oil in the North East.

Gas Distributorships in Thane

1885. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of gas distributors in Thane revenue districts are far too inadequate in relation to existing customer holding and wait listed customers;

(b) the number of gas distributorships advertised during last five years company-wise and location-wise and the number of gas Distributorships commissioned out of the above advertised locations in Thane district;

(c) the number of locations approved as per the plans for appointment of gas distributors in the State of Maharashtra company-wise and whether these locations are not advertised due to non-functioning of Oil Selection Board; and

(d) when Government proposes to finalise selection of gas distributors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) There is demand for setting up more LPG distributorships in Thane district.

(b)

Location Advertised	*Company*
1. Nallasopara	HPC
2. Airoli	"
3. Mira Road	"
4. Dombivli (4)	BPC
5. Ulhasnagar (2)	BPC

One location each at Dombivli and Ulhasnagar have been commissioned out of above 9 advertised.

(c) and (d) In addition to the LPG distributorships pending from previous Marketing Plans, 69 LPG distributorships have been planned for the State of Maharashtra in the Marketing Plan for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94. Oil Selection Board for Maharashtra has started functioning which will finalise selections in a phased manner.

Setting up of Gas based Thermal Power Projects at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

1886. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposals for setting up gas-based Thermal Power Projects at Kakinada, Vijjeswaram Stage-II, Amalapuram and Jagurupadu Phase-II respectively; and

(b) what are the reasons for delay in granting gas allocation for each of these four gas-based Power Projects respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gas has been allotted for two power stations in the Krishna-Godavari basin which are now being set up with private investment. In view of allocation already made within the availability of gas, no further allocations are feasible.

Vacancies in Group 'D' posts in Indian Oil Corporation

1887. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of vacancies in Group 'D' posts in the reserved category of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been lying vacant in the Indian Oil Corporation in its Delhi/ New Delhi Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps being taken to fill up the vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Only two vacancies for SC/ST exist.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Setting up of Oil Refinery at Pondicherry

1888. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total capacity of natural gas available in Narimanam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the capacity of natural gas found in Pondicherry State;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up an oil refinery at Pondicherry; and

(d) if so, what is the capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) According to estimates made by ONGC as on January, 1992, the maximum production potential of the Narimanam field in Tamil Nadu is 0.12 MMSCMD.

(b) No commercial discovery of gas has so far been made in Pondicherry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

LPG Connections in Tamil Nadu

1889. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LPG connections are to be increased this year;

(b) what are the norms followed for allotment of agency in LPG ;

(c) what is the total number of LPG connections in Tamil Nadu;

(d) what is the total number of LPG connections in Waiting Lists; and

(e) are they likely to be cleared this year; and if not, the reasons therefor ?